



The Writing Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

American Psychological Association [APA] Citation Guidelines, 6th Edition

When documenting a source using APA, an author has the choice of placing the citation at the beginning of the sentence or at the end. In the following handout, both ways of documenting are presented.

Please note that the 6th edition of the APA publication manual has significant differences from the 5th edition. Keep in mind that journals and books retrieved electronically are now cited differently and that the overall document format required for APA has changed as well.

All information garnered from a source not your own **must** be cited. When paraphrasing material, APA does not require the use of page numbers. However, for long and complex works, the use of page numbers is recommended.

All materials directly quoted will require page numbers for the reference. When citing a single page of a document, use the abbreviation "p." Example: (Doe, 2007, p. 276). When citing multiple pages, use the abbreviation "pp." Example: (Doe, 2007, pp. 276-277).

Occasionally, documents will have no authors and/or dates of publication listed. Encyclopedia entries commonly use this style. In these instances, the title of the document is used in place of the author's name in text and in the References page. Example: ("PCRY user survey," 2008). For sources with no date listed, write "n.d." in place of the date. Example: ("PCRY user requirements," n.d.).

APA References Lists

- When creating a References page, the word **References** should be typed and centered at the top of the page. References are alphabetized based upon author's last name. For each reference, the first line of the citation will be left justified in the document with each subsequent line indented between ½ and 1 inch.
- When creating a citation, use only initials for the first and middle names and end the element with a period. Follow this with the year in parentheses and end this element with a period. Example: Doe, J. (2007).
- In titles only the first letter of the first word, first letters of proper nouns, and the first letter of the first word after a colon are capitalized. Example: Rats cannot vomit: A study of American rats versus Canadian rats.
- When citing journal articles, cite the volume and issue numbers.

- Titles of articles in journals are in regular font; journal titles and volume and issue numbers are italicized.
- Titles of books are italicized.
- If a specific edition of a book is cited, place the edition number after the title of the book. Example: Doe, J. (2000). *Electoral politics* (9th ed.). Denver, CO: Publisher.

Samples:

One author	
In text:	Doe (2007) found that rats cannot vomit.
End of sentence:	Rats cannot vomit (Doe, 2007).
Quotations:	Doe (2007) found that “rats cannot disgorge their stomach contents” (p. 276). This study determined that “rats cannot disgorge their stomach contents” (Doe, 2007, p. 276).
References page citation for journal:	Doe, J. (2007). Rats cannot vomit: How weird is that? <i>Journal of Rat Vomit Research</i> , 67(8), 270-278.
Journal with DOI	Doe, J. (2007). Rats probably cannot vomit: An investigation. <i>Journal of Rat Vomit Research</i> , 67(9), 190-192. doi: 99.4738583958395/478572
Journal with no DOI	Doe, J. (2007). Investigating mice breeding patterns. <i>Journal of Mice Research</i> , 132(2), 99-101. Retrieved from http://ort.lib.derb.edu.au/html
Book:	Doe, J. (2007). <i>Why rat research remains important</i> . Denver, CO: Rat Research, Inc.
Book with DOI	Doe, J. (2007). <i>The glories of rat research</i> . doi: 10.03478/99947385
Electronic-only book	Doe, J. (2007). <i>Why rat research will redefine history</i> . Retrieved from http://www.ratsandhistory.org
Article in Edited Book	When citing an article in an edited book (i.e., different chapters are written by contributors), you will cite the author of the article or chapter in text, NOT the editors of the overall book. Horrocks (2001) found that rats cannot breed with dolphins. For the reference page citation, you would have: Horrocks, J. (2001). Rat and dolphin breeding. In B. Ward, A. West, & M. Keaton (Eds.), <i>Cross-species investigation</i> (pp.99-123). Denver, CO: Fromage Publishing.

Two authors	
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In text:	Doe and Koenig (2007) found that rats are not an ingredient in ratatouille.
End of sentence:	In a recent study, it was determined that rats are not an ingredient in ratatouille (Doe & Koenig, 2007).
Quotations:	Doe and Koenig (2007) found that “ratatouille contains many ingredients, but not rats” (p. 276). This study found that “ratatouille contains many ingredients, but not rats” (Doe & Koenig, 2007, p. 276).
References page citation for journal:	Doe, J., & Koenig, R.G. (2007). Rats should not be an ingredient in ratatouille. <i>Journal of Rat Research</i> , 10(8), 270-279. <i>Please see “One Author” for instructions on electronic journal articles from websites and those with DOI numbers.</i>
Book:	Doe, J., & Koenig, R.G. (2007). <i>Cooking with non-rat ingredients</i> . Denver, CO: Publisher. <i>Please see “One Author” for instructions on electronic books from websites and those books with DOI numbers.</i>

<u>Three to five authors</u>	
In text:	Doe, Koenig, and Garganzola (2007) found that 9 out of 10 people favor muenster cheese over gouda.
End of sentence:	A recent study found that 9 out of 10 people favor muenster cheese over gouda (Doe, Koenig, & Garganzola, 2007).
Quotations:	Doe, Koenig, and Garganzola (2007) found that “gouda was significantly less favored than muenster, with only 1 out of 9 respondents favoring gouda and 9 out of 10 favoring muenster” (p. 90). In fact, “gouda was significantly less favored than muenster, with only 1 out of 9 respondents favoring gouda and 9 out of 10 favoring muenster” (Doe, Koenig, & Garganzola, 2007, p. 90).
First subsequent citation per paragraph after the first citation within text:	Doe et al. (2007) found that muenster cheese is much better than brie.
After first citation within paragraph:	Doe et al. found that muenster cheese is the best in the world.
References page	Doe, J., Koenig, R.G., & Garganzola, B. (2007). Muenster

citation for journal:	cheese is the best cheese in the world. <i>Journal of Cheese Preference Research</i> , 8(4), 90-97.
Book:	Doe, J., Koenig, R.G., and Garganzola, B. (2007). <i>Muenster cheese: Why this cheese will soon dominate the world</i> . Denver, CO: Le Fromage, Inc.

<u>Six authors</u>	
In text:	Doe et al. (2007) found that APA documentation can be learned easily.
End of sentence:	APA documentation can be learned easily (Doe et al., 2007).
Quotations:	Doe et al. (2007) found that “learning APA is an easy process” (p. 90). In fact, “learning APA is an easy process” (Doe et al., 2007, p. 90).
References page citation for journal:	Cite all authors completely as you would in any other citation: Doe, J., Garganzola, R., Brie, F., Chambord, T., Gouda, U., & Muenster, O. (2007). A guide to APA documentation. <i>Journal of Citation</i> , 8(7), 90-97.
Book:	Same as other books; cite all authors.

<u>More than seven authors</u>	Occasionally, some works have more than 6 authors listed. In the case of a work having more than 7 authors, cut off the list of authors at six persons, write “...” and then continue the authors with the last author identified. IF the work has 7 authors, list all authors. Doe, J., Frank, J., Brown, J., Chambord, R., Kelly, T., Paulson, Q., ...Costanza, Z. (2007). A secondary guide to APA documentation. <i>Journal of Citation</i> , 9(1), 100-118. Cite in text the same as you would for six authors: Doe et al. (2007) OR (Doe et al., 2007)
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<u>Several studies</u>	When making comments such as “Several studies found” or “Many researchers have noted,” provide examples, listed alphabetically, of the studies and/or researchers: Many studies demonstrated that rats cannot vomit (e.g., Garganzola, 2007; Muenster, 2007).
<u>Secondary Sources</u>	When you are citing a work that was cited by a different author, cite it in the following manner: According to Freud, the Oedipus Complex is related to superego development (as cited in Jones, 1998). In the above example, the writer did not cite Freud’s original

	work but rather cited Freud's work as it appeared in Jones. APA highly recommends consulting the original work whenever possible.
<u>Same author/same year</u>	<p>Often, writers will publish a lot in a single year. To distinguish between these sources, write the Reference page citation, make sure that the references are ordered alphabetically, and assign a lowercase letter (e.g., a, b, c, d) to the year of publication:</p> <p>Doe, J. (2008a). Answering questions about dolphins. Doe, J. (2008b). By the water's edge. Doe, J. (2008c). Vultures and dolphins.</p> <p>In text, distinguish between the sources by citing the year and the lowercase letter: Doe (2008a); Doe (2008b); Doe (2008c).</p>

<u>Personal communications</u>	<p>Personal communications (such as e-mail, personal discussion, and letters) do not provide recoverable data, so they will not go in the References page. In the text, provide the name, type of communication, and date of communication:</p> <p>J.T. Doe (Personal Communication, April 1, 2007) noted that rats cannot vomit.</p> <p>Rats cannot vomit (J.T. Doe, personal communication, April 1, 2007).</p>
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<u>Electronic sources</u>	
<u>In text citations</u>	<p>In-text citations for electronic sources are formatted in the same Author (Year) or (Author, Year, Location) format as print resources.</p> <p>Since most online sources do not provide a page number, provide the section header and paragraph location: Doe (2007) found that "rats cannot vomit" (Conclusion section, para. 1). OR: Doe (2007) found that "rats cannot vomit" (Conclusion section, ¶ 1). OR: The study found that "rats cannot vomit" (Doe, 2007, Conclusion section, para. 1). OR:</p>

	The study found that “rats cannot vomit” (Doe, 2007, Conclusion section, ¶ 1).
<u>Internet articles based on print source</u>	Occasionally, electronic versions of print journal articles will be cited. In this instance, drawing attention to the fact that it is an electronic copy is necessary: Doe, J., Garganzola, H., & Gouda, F. (2008). The history of cheese in France [Electronic version]. <i>Journal of French History</i> , 5(6), 119-130.
<u>Internet-only journal</u>	Internet-only journals are becoming increasingly common. When citing a URL, do not include a period at the end of the citation. They are cited as such: Tucker, T. (2008). Napoleon’s triumph: The history of total war in 18 th and 19 th century Europe. <i>Journal of Pre-Modern Military History</i> , 8(1), Article 0001a. Retrieved from http://www.fakehistoryjournal.org
<u>Multipage document by private organization</u>	Occasionally, an electronic source will be comprised of multiple pages, each with a separate URL. In this instance, provide a URL to the home page. An additional (and easier) method would be to treat each page as a separate source and follow the steps listed in “Same Author, Same year” listed above to distinguish sources. Improving Children’s Education Taskforce. (2007). <i>Why we need to improve education for all</i> . Retrieved from http://www.ICET.org If using multiple pages from the same source: Improving Children’s Education Taskforce. (2007a). <i>About us</i> . Retrieved from http://www.ICET.org/about us Improving Children’s Education Taskforce. (2007b). <i>Why we need to improve education for all</i> . Retrieved from http://www.ICET.org/improving
<u>Chapter/section in Internet document</u>	It may be necessary to cite only a single section of an Internet site and not an entire site: Improving Children’s Education Taskforce. (2007). Necessary steps to improve education. In <i>Numerous ways to improve education</i> (chap. 2). Retrieved from http://www.ICET.org/Numerous
<u>Stand-alone document</u>	Occasionally, an Internet article will have no identified author and is considered a stand-alone document. In this instance, the citation begins with the title of the document: <i>PCRY user survey</i> . (2008). Retrieved from http://www.PCRY.org

	<p>In text, the title (or shortened title if the title is long) will be used in place of the author's name:</p> <p>It was found that 95% of respondents did not approve of the change ("PCRY user survey," 2008).</p>
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<u>Organizations as authors</u>	<p>The prevalence of schizophrenia in the general population is roughly 1% (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2007). Subsequent citations: (NIMH, 2007).</p>
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<u>Special document/source types</u>	<p>For special types of documents such as brochures, letters to the editor, monographs, abstracts, videotapes, software, CDs, and motion pictures, provide the document type in brackets after the title: Doe, J. (2000). <i>The all-candy diet</i> (4th ed.). [Brochure]. Denver, CO: Publisher.</p> <p>Special document types like those listed above are cited in text in the same Author (Year) fashion as other document/source types. Scorsese, M. (Producer), & Lonergan, K. (Writer/Director). (2000). <i>You can count on me</i> [Motion picture]. United States: Paramount Pictures.</p>
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<u>Newspapers</u>	<p>No author: Advocating the all-candy diet. (2006, May 7). <i>The Denver Post</i>, p. A15. In text: ("Advocating," 2006, May 7).</p> <p>With author: Brown, J. (2006, May 7). Winning the election. <i>The Denver Post</i>, p. A15.</p> <p>Discontinuous pages: Brown, J. (2006, May 7). How the election was lost. <i>The Denver Post</i>, pp. A1, A4. In text: Brown (2006, May 7) OR (Brown, 2006, May 7).</p> <p>Online: Farkman, Q. (2012, December 20). Why 2012 will not be the end of the world. <i>The New Observer</i>. Retrieved from www.newobserverqq.com In text: Farkman (2012, December 20) OR (Farkman, 2012,</p>
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	December 20)
<u>Edited book</u>	Doe, J., & Chambord, P. (Eds). (2004). <i>U.S. election policies</i> . Denver, CO: Publishing Company, Inc.
<u>Book, no author or editor</u>	<i>Cheese compendium</i> (edition, should one be available). (2007). Madison, WI: Cheese Publications.
<u>Encyclopedia or dictionary</u>	Doe, J. (Ed.). (2007). <i>Dictionary of odd words</i> (6 th ed., Vols. 1-20). Truth or Consequences, NM: Odd Work Publishing.
<u>Non-English book</u>	<p>Chateaubriand, R.A. (2005). <i>Ma vie</i> [My life]. Paris: Fromage Publishing.</p> <p>If the non-English title of the translated work is used, cite the original version and place the English translation of the title in brackets.</p> <p>Translated book: Chateaubriand, R. (2006). <i>My life in Paris</i> (J. Doe, Trans.). New York, NY: New Age Publishing. (Original work published 1807)</p> <p>If the English title of the translated work is used, cite the English title.</p>
<u>Classical works</u>	<p>Classical works can refer to sacred texts, ancient Greek and Roman texts, works of the Medieval, Renaissance, and post-Renaissance periods, and even landmark texts of more recent publication. Classical works such as the Bible and ancient Greek and Roman works are cited ONLY in text. However, a way to document such sources in the References pages for teachers who require a citation is presented.</p> <p>Classical work <i>In text:</i> (Plato, trans. 2009) <i>References page</i> (based on precedent, not official APA): Plato. (trans. 2009). <i>The Republic</i>. G. Farlik (Trans). Denver, CO: Parietal Publishing.</p> <p>Reprinted classical work: For both in-text and References pages, indicate the ORIGINAL year of publication and the year of the publication you are using. <i>In text:</i></p>

	<p>Doe (1899/2008) found that astronomy and astrology are different, yet ancient astrologers made important astronomical finds.</p> <p>OR:</p> <p>Astronomy and astrology are different, yet astrologers made important astronomical finds (Doe, 1899/2008).</p> <p><i>References page:</i></p> <p>Doe, A.C. (1899/2008). <i>Ancient astronomy and astrology</i> (90th ed). Denver, CO: Parietal Publishing.</p>
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<p><u>Basic legal documents</u></p>	<p>Court decisions:</p> <p><i>In text:</i></p> <p>In <i>Doe v. Doe</i> (2009), the question of the meaning of life was settled.</p> <p>The U.S. courts settled the question of the meaning of life (<i>Doe v. Doe, 2009</i>).</p> <p><i>References pages:</i></p> <p><i>Doe v. Doe</i>, 399 F. Supp. 9987 (E.D. Wis. 2009).</p> <p>Statutes:</p> <p><i>In text:</i></p> <p>The Meaning of Life Act (2010) adjudicates on proper activities to engage in while living.</p> <p>OR:</p> <p>The Meaning of Life Act of 2010 adjudicates on proper activities to engage in while living.</p> <p><i>References pages:</i></p> <p>Meaning of Life Act, 49 U.S.C. § 10000 (2010).</p>
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